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Preface

This issue of *Theoretical Computer Science* contains selected papers presented at the conference Ordal'94: Orders, Algorithms and Applications, which took place in July 94 at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

The main topics discussed at the conference concerned algorithms and complexity for problems related to partial orders. This special issue contains improved versions of some papers published in the proceedings and new research papers on the topic "Orders and Algorithms", in a wide sense, that is including papers not directly dealing with ordered sets but treating structures closely related to them, and also papers on on-line or parallel algorithms.

The proceedings of the conference already contains survey papers, in particular K.P. Bogart's "Interval and Orders: What comes after interval orders?" and J. Spinrad's "Dimension and Algorithms", which discuss many problems and research directions in the spirit of the conference. We add here another survey paper in a very promising area "On-line Algorithms for Orders", by V. Bouchitté and J.-X. Rampon.

We want to thank Maurice Nivat for his constant encouragement in bringing out this issue.

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